

**CLEAN WATER ACTION PLAN  
UNIFIED WATERSHED ASSESSMENT  
NAVAJO NATION  
October 1, 1998**

The Navajo Nation Environmental Protection Agency (NNEPA) Water Quality Program, in response to the February 1998 "Clean Water Action Plan" calling for a unified watershed assessment and prioritization, is submitting the final watershed priority list. This final prioritization incorporates applicable comments made from public review.

The attached matrix worksheet is based on input from the following entities: NN Department of Water Resources, NN Natural Heritage Program, NN Department of Agriculture, U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Arizona Department of Environmental Quality, and the New Mexico Environmental Department. Geographic Information System (GIS), ARCVIEW, and BASINS were tools used to compile matrix data and Figure 1. (Navajo Nation Watershed Map).

Worksheet, page one, column headings are the 8 digit watershed code, name of the watershed, area in square miles, area in square miles within the Navajo Nation, percent of the watershed within the Navajo Nation, jurisdiction, potential partnerships for watershed rehabilitation, category, and priority number. Page two column headings are the 8 digit code, watershed name, scoring criteria, and total points. If a criterion relates to a watershed, "x" is in the appropriate box. Total number of x's per watershed give the numeric total. Watersheds with five points or greater are Category I based on existing data. Watersheds with four points or less are Category IV. No Category II or Category III watersheds are known of within the Navajo Nation. Ranking within each category is relative to total points per watershed. Criteria descriptions are as follows:

- **Surface Drinking Water (SDW)**  
This includes surface water and alluvial wells used as drinking water sources and managed by the Navajo Tribal Utility Authority.
- **Threatened and Endangered Species (T&E)**  
This criterion notes watersheds that have threatened and endangered species as determined by the NN Natural Heritage Program.
- **National Monuments, Navajo Nation Monuments (NM/NNM)**  
Monuments in this criterion include Chaco Canyon, Canyon de Chelly, Monument Valley, Navajo National Monument, and others.

- **Watershed Projects (WSP)**  
This criterion identifies watersheds which have active watershed rehabilitation projects underway. These projects are cooperative efforts between various Navajo Nation and federal agencies.
- **National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES)**  
This criterion represents sewage lagoons permitted for discharge to receiving waters. Exceedance of discharge standards is chronic.
- **Oil Fields (OF)**  
Watersheds containing oil production facilities are included under this criterion. Data on spills and discharges to water bodies and drainages are collected by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management.
- **NRCS Geographic Priority Areas (GPA)**  
These watersheds contain one or more Geographic Priority Areas as delineated by the U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). The GPA's represent degraded uplands, degraded riparian/wetland systems, and or sediment/salinity impacted irrigation systems. These are areas currently under or targeted for management implementation.
- **Recreation Areas (RA)**  
Recreation activities contribute to degradation of water quality through erosion, runoff from roads and parking lots, and on-site waste disposal.
- **Navajo Nation Watershed Priority Listing (NNWSP)**  
The Navajo Nation Watershed Planning Team, including the NRCS, conducted a Navajo Nation watershed prioritization in 1995-96 based on input from Soil and Water Conservation Districts. This criterion represents watersheds in the final priority selection.
- **Abandoned Uranium Mines (AUM)**  
Referenced in the Navajo Nation 305(b) Water Quality Assessment Report as impairing water quality.
- **Dam Safety (DS)**  
Referenced in the Navajo Nation 305(b) Water Quality Assessment Report as an impairment and threat to water quality.
- **Floodplain Delineation**  
Natural resource goals are not being met, in part, due to watersheds lacking 100 year U.S. Army Corps Of Engineers floodplain delineations. Watersheds needing delineations or delineation expansions are included in this criterion.

The NNEPA Water Quality Program contracted a Clean Water Act Section 305(b) Water Quality Assessment Report in FY97. The nonsampling report assessed approximately 2,265 miles of intermittent, ephemeral, and perennial streams. There are approximately 39,000 miles of these stream types on the Navajo Nation. The report concluded that no assessed water bodies are fully supporting designated uses. Hydro/habitat modifications and agricultural practices are the primary stressors impairing eighty-five and eighty-two percent respectively of waters evaluated. Seventy-one percent of assessed waters were considered partially supporting while 29 percent were assessed as nonsupporting of designated uses. No lakes assessed fully support designated uses. There was insufficient data to provide an assessment of Navajo Nation wetlands. Empirical data reflects most wetlands and wet meadow areas are being overgrazed and/or impacted by development and roads.

The Navajo Nation contains tributary headwaters of the San Juan, Colorado, and Little Colorado Rivers. The health of these headwater watersheds is growing in importance as population growth in the southwest increases the demand for good quality water. The Clean Water Action Plan, if sufficiently funded, will help implement the future good health of Navajo Nation watersheds.



Navajo Nation Environmental Protection Agency  
Water Quality Program  
Clean Water Act Watershed Prioritization Worksheet

13020204	Rio Puerco	2090	129.3	6	NN, NM	NNEPA, NNDNR, NMED	IV	1
13020205	Arroyo Chico	1360	536.6	39	NN, NM	NNEPA, NNDNR, NMED	IV	3
13020206	North Plains	1130	16.1	1	NN, NM	NNEPA, NNDNR, NMED	IV	4
13020207	Rio San Jose	2620	341.3	13	NN, NM	NNEPA, NNDNR, NMED	IV	2
13020209	Rio Salado	1390	94.6	7	NN, NM	NNEPA, NNDNR, NMED	IV	4
14070006	Lower Lake Powell	2930	1503.7	51	NN, AZ, UT	NNEPA, NNDNR, ADEQ, UTDEQ, NRCS, SWCD	I	6
14080101	Upper San Juan River	3430	411.8	12	NN, NM, CO	NNEPA, NNDNR, NMED, CODEQ, NRCS, SWCD	I	5
14080103	Blanco Canyon	1690	281.9	16	NN, NM	NNEPA, NNDNR, NMED	IV	2
14080105	Middle San Juan River	1920	1077.1	56	NN, NM, CO	NNEPA, NNDNR, NMED, CODEQ, NRCS, SWCD	I	3
14080106	Chaco River	4510	4500.7	99	NN, NM	NNEPA, NNDNR, NRCS, SWCD, NMED	I	1
14080107	Mancos River	795	64.1	8	NN, CO	NNEPA, NNDNR, CODEQ, NRCS, SWCD	I	5
14080201	Lower San Juan-Four Corners Basin	2000	903	45	NN, UT, NM, CO	NNEPA, NNDNR, UTDEQ, NMED, CODEQ, NRCS	I	3
14080202	McElmo Creek	702	66	9	NN, UT, CO	NNEPA, NNDNR, UTDEQ, CODEQ, NRCS, SWCD	I	6
14080203	Montezuma Creek	1160	89	7	NN, UT, CO	NNEPA, NNDNR, UTDEQ, CODEQ, NRCS, SWCD	I	6
14080204	Chinle Wash	4090	4090	100	NN	NNEPA, NNDNR, NRCS, SWCD	I	1
14080205	Lower San Juan River	2320	1525.6	65	NN, UT	NNEPA, NNDNR, UTDEQ, NRCS, SWCD	I	2
15010001	Lower Colorado-Marble Canyon	1490	371.2	26	NN, AZ	NNEPA, NNDNR, ADEQ, NRCS, SWCD	IV	1
15020004	Zuni River	2730	520.9	19	NN, AZ, NM, ZUNI	NNEPA, NNDNR, ADEQ, NMED, ZUNI	IV	2
15020006	Upper Puerco River	1890	1755.8	93	NN, NM, AZ	NNEPA, NNDNR, NMED, ADEQ	I	2
15020007	Lower Puerco River	1100	527.3	48	NN, AZ	NNEPA, NNDNR, ADEQ	IV	3
15020008	Middle Little Colorado River	2450	494.6	20	NN, AZ	NNEPA, NNDNR, ADEQ, NRCS, SWCD	IV	2
15020009	Leroux Wash	801	607.2	76	NN, AZ	NNEPA, NNDNR, ADEQ	IV	4
15020011	Cottonwood Wash	1610	1399.7	87	NN, AZ	NNEPA, NNDNR, NRCS, SWCD, ADEQ	I	5
15020012	Corn-Oraibi Wash	864	459.3	53	NN, HOPI	NNEPA, NNDNR, HOPI, NRCS, SWCD	IV	2
15020013	Polacca Wash	1070	519.2	48	NN, HOPI	NNEPA, NNDNR, HOPI, NRCS, SWCD	IV	2
15020014	Jeddito Wash	1050	636.7	60	NN, HOPI	NNEPA, NNDNR, HOPI, NRCS, SWCD	I	6
15020015	Canyon Diablo	1200	120.6	10	NN, AZ	NNEPA, NNDNR, ADEQ, NRCS, SWCD	I	5
15020016	Lower Little Colorado River	2390	1217.6	51	NN, AZ, HOPI	NNEPA, NNDNR, ADEQ, HOPI, NRCS, SWCD	I	3
15020017	Dinnebito Wash	737	355.7	48	NN, HOPI	NNEPA, NNDNR, HOPI, NRCS, SWCD	IV	1
15020018	Moenkopi Wash	2640	1985.4	75	NN, HOPI	NNEPA, NNDNR, HOPI, NRCS, SWCD	I	3

NNEPA = Navajo Nation Environmental Protection Agency  
NNDNR = Navajo Nation Division of Natural Resources  
NMED = New Mexico Environmental Department  
ADEQ = Arizona Department of Environmental Quality  
UTDEQ = Utah Department of Environmental Quality  
CODEQ = Colorado Department of Environmental Quality

Hopi = Hopi Nation  
Zuni = Zuni Nation  
NRCS = USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service  
SWCD = USDA Soil and Water Conservation District

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13020204	Rio Puerco				X	X						X	X	4
13020205	Arroyo Chico		X										X	2
13020206	North Plains												X	1
13020207	Rio San Jose		X								X		X	3
13020209	Rio Salado												X	1
14070006	Lower Lake Powell			X	X		X		X				X	5
14080101	Upper San Juan River	X	X					X				X	X	6
14080103	Blanco Canyon	X							X				X	3
14080105	Middle San Juan River	X	X			X	X	X		X			X	8
14080106	Chaco River	X	X	X		X	X	X		X		X	X	10
14080107	Mancos River	X	X				X	X					X	6
14080201	Lower San Juan-Four Corners Basin	X	X			X	X	X		X			X	8
14080202	McElmo Creek	X					X	X					X	5
14080203	Montezuma Creek	X					X	X					X	5
14080204	Chinle Wash	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X		X	X	10
14080205	Lower San Juan River	X	X	X		X	X	X		X			X	9
15010001	Lower Colorado-Marble Canyon		X					X	X				X	4
15020004	Zuni River		X		X	X							X	4
15020006	Upper Puerco River	X	X		X	X			X	X	X	X	X	9
15020007	Lower Puerco River	X	X		X								X	4
15020008	Middle Little Colorado River		X		X			X					X	4
15020009	Leroux Wash				X								X	2
15020011	Cottonwood Wash	X	X		X			X		X		X	X	7
15020012	Corn-Oraibi Wash		X		X			X					X	4
15020013	Polacca Wash		X		X			X					X	4
15020014	Jeddito Wash		X		X			X		X			X	5
15020015	Canyon Diablo		X		X			X		X		X	X	6
15020016	Lower Little Colorado River	X	X		X	X		X		X	X		X	8
15020017	Dinnebito Wash				X			X		X			X	4
15020018	Moenkopi Wash		X	X	X	X		X		X	X		X	8

SDW = Surface Drinking Water

T&E = Threatened and Endangered Species

NM/NNM = National Monuments, Navajo Nation Monuments

WSP = Watersheds with active projects

NPDES = National Pollution Discharge Elimination System

OF = Oil Fields

GPA = NRCS Geographical Priority Areas

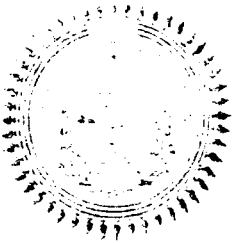
RA = Recreation Areas

NNWSP = NRCS Navajo Nation Watershed Priority Listing

AUM = Abandoned Uranium Mines, Millings, and Tailings Sites

DS = Dam Safety

FPD = Flood Plain Delineation



**THE  
NAVAJO  
NATION**

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MILTON BLUEHOUSE, SR.

PRESIDENT

FRANK C. WILLETO

VICE PRESIDENT

September 24, 1998

To : All Persons Interested in the Health of Navajo Nation Watersheds

FROM : *Lydele Davies*  
Lydele Davies, Acting Executive Director  
Navajo Nation Environmental Protection Agency

RE : Navajo Nation's Final "Unified Watershed Assessment"

Please find enclosed the final Navajo Nation's watershed prioritization as stipulated in U.S. Vice President Al Gore's February, 1998 "Clean Water Action Plan". This watershed assessment and prioritization for rehabilitation/restoration guide the development of restoration strategies in 1999 and steer the use of proposed additional funding made available through President Clinton's FY 1999 Clean Water and Watershed Restoration Budget Initiative to accelerate watershed restoration in a coordinated manner to achieve maximum effect. The proposed 1999 budget has an increase over 1998 of 568 million dollars. These additional monies will be allocated to federal agencies as follows: Environmental Protection Agency, Department of Agriculture, Department of the Interior, National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration, Army Corps of Engineers, and Interagency Projects.

Native American Nations may receive additional monies through their federal contracts and grants based on their watershed prioritization. The prioritization is divided into four categories as follows:

**Category I-Watersheds in Need of Restoration.** These watersheds do not now meet clean water and other natural resource goals. Selection factors include:

- nonattainment of national clean water goals (including exceedance of state or tribal water quality standards, drinking water standards, etc.);
- nonattainment of natural resource goals related to the aquatic systems, including goals related to habitat, ecosystem health, and living resources;